

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CPR-02 PM-05 NSC-05 ICA-11

OPR-02 PA-01 SS-15 SY-05 A-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 SP-02 /086 W

-----057899 280504Z /14

R 261955Z JUN 78

FM AMCONSUL CURACAO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3935

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CURACAO 0448/1

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, NA (PM ROZENDAL'S VISIT TO U.S.)

SUBJECT: PM ROZENDAL'S VISIT TO U.S.

REF: CURACAO 0442

SUMMARY. PM ROZENDAL HAS NOW SET JULY 31 AS DATE OF HIS PLANNED VISIT TO U.S. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE THROUGH DUTCH EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS BEEN ORDERED. CONGEN RELAYED DEPARTMENT'S VIEW, RECEIVED FROM DESK BY PHONE, THAT SEPTEMBER WOULD BE ADVISABLE. BUT ROZENDAL SEEMS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE PLANS. MAIN OBJECT OF VISIT IS TO SEEK USG HELP IN RESOLVING PROBLEMS OF ANTILLEAN REFINERIES. RESOLUTION OF THOSE PROBLEMS CAN'T WAIT. ROZENDAL BELIEVES DELAY OF VISIT TO SEPTEMBER WOULD BE TAKEN HERE AS SHOWING LACK OF EFFORT TO SOLVE ANTILLES' MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM. HE ALSO THINKS DELAY WOULD UNDERCUT SENSE OF URGENCY HE HOPES TO COMMUNICATE TO EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCH CONTACTS HE HOPES TO MAKE. HE THINKS DELAY WOULD ALSO ADVERSELY AFFECT US-ANTILLEAN RELATIONS. FOR IT WOULD HAVE TO BE EXPLAINED AS RESULTING FROM USG REQUEST. AND THAT WOULD TEND TO SHOW LACK OF USG CONCERN FOR ANTILLES' ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. END SUMMARY.

2. PM ROZENDAL CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS

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HIS COMING VISIT TO U.S. HE SAID MAIN OBJECT IS TO EXPLAIN PLIGHT OF ANTILLEAN OIL REFINERIES. HE WANTS TO ARGUE FOR CHANGES IN U.S. POLICIES AND LEGISLATION NECESSARY TO IMPROVE COMPETITIVE POSITION OF THOSE REFINERIES. PM EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO MAKE TRIP IN JUNE AND THEN THOUGHT OF EARLY JULY. BUT THESE DATES HAD PROVED UNDESIRABLE BECAUSE OF FORESEEABLE PREOCCUPATIONS OF U.S. OFFICIALS HE WANTS TO SEE.

HE REFERRED TO VARIOUS MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES, INCLUDING BONN SUMMIT. HE HAS NOW SET TRIP FOR JULY 31, AND DUTCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS INSTRUCTIONS NOW TO ANNOUNCE VISIT.

3. ALTHOUGH DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN ON DATE, PM HAS NOT YET STARTED MAKING FIRM APPOINTMENTS. HE SAID HE WANTED TO TALK FIRST WITH ME TO INSURE THAT DEPARTMENT AND PARTICULARLY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHELTON WERE INFORMED SOONEST THROUGH CONGEN CHANNELS. ROZENDAL SAID HE HOPES FOR TALKS WITH POLICY-LEVEL PEOPLE IN DEPT OF ENERGY, HOPEFULLY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER; DEPT OF STATE (NO MENTION OF WHOM OR LEVEL); KEY CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES; AND PRESIDENT, APPROACH THROUGH AMBASSADOR YOUNG IS ALREADY UNDERWAY. PM HOPES THAT IF OFFICIAL VISIT IS IMPOSSIBLE, SOMETHING "NONOFFICIAL" CAN BE WORKED OUT.

4. AT FIRST OPPORTUNITY I SET FORTH POSITION GIVEN ME BY PHONE JUST BEFORE I LEFT FOR APPOINTMENT. I EXPLAINED SEPTEMBER OR EARLY FALL WOULD BE MOST ADVISABLE TIME FOR VISIT, USING TALKING POINTS RECEIVED FROM DESK.

5. ROZENDAL SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO WAIT UNTIL SEPTEMBER BECAUSE PROBLEMS OF REFINERIES ARE URGENT. IN ADDITION, HE BELIEVES THERE WILL BE HEARINGS IN JULY ON NEW ENERGY PROPOSALS THAT MIGHT EFFECT REFINERIES. HE THINKS JULY VISIT WOULD BE BETTER CALCULATED TO MAKE IMPACT ON DELIBERATIONS AND DECISIONS. PM SAID HE CANNOT BE SURE HIS VISIT WILL BE HELPFUL BUT HE MUST MAKE CONFIDENTIAL

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EFFORT. HE MUST BE ABLE TO SAY HE IS TRYING. IF HE WERE TO WAIT UNTIL SEPTEMBER TO GO TO U.S., IT WOULD LOOK LIKE HE DOES NOT TAKE EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS HERE SERIOUSLY. (COMMENT. I GATHERED THAT HE ALSO THINKS THAT DELAY OF VISIT TO SEPTEMBER WOULD ALSO UNDERCUT SENSE OF URGENCY HE HOPE TO COMMUNICATE TO USG INTERLOCUTORS IN WASHINGTON.)

6. ROZENDAL ALSO PUTS NEED FOR JULY VISIT IN CONTEXT OF ECONOMIC STRESSES HERE AS PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY FOR CUBAN ACTIVITIES. HE SAID HUBENTUT '70, YOUTH ORGANIZATION, HAS JUST ANNOUNCED THAT IT IS SENDING A DELEGATION TO CUBA. HE ALSO NOTED THAT CUBAN PARTICIPANTS AT PRIVATELY-SPONSORED CARIBBEAN CONGRESS AGAINST PROSTITUTION HELD LAST WEEK ON BONAIRE HAD BEEN MAKING IMPRESSIVE SHOWING ON EFFECTIVENESS OF CASTRO REGIME IN DEALING AND WITH THIS PROBLEM.

7. FROM POINT OF VIEW OF U.S.--ANTILLEAN RELATINONS ROZENDAL

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-----061047 280504Z /14

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BELIEVES DELAY OF VISIT WOULD ALSO BE UNDESIRABLE. FOR HE
BELIEVES ANY DELAY UNTIL SEPTEMBER WOULD HAVE TO BE EXPLAINED
AS BEING AT USG REQUEST (HE ANNOUNCED AT MAY 9 OPENING OF
STATEN HE WAS GOING TO U.S. NEXT "MONTH"). THAT WOULD MAKE IT
LOOK LIKE USG IS NOT INTERESTED IN WHAT HAPPENS HERE.

8. MATTER NOW IS LEFT THAT ROZENDAL WILL CALL REALE DOWN FROM
WASHINGTON TO WORK ON PLANNING FOR VISIT AT MEETING JUNE 30
OR JULY 3 WITH PM AND ME. I OF COURSE EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS
TO MEET HERE WITH PM AND HIS STAFF, BUT STRESSED ALSO NECESSITY
FOR CLOSE LIAISON BETWEEN ROZENDAL'S REPRESENTATIVES IN WASH-
INGTON AND DEPARTMENT.

9. COMMENT. I BELIEVE ROZENDAL'S DECISION ON JULY 31 DATE IS
UNLIKELY TO BE REVERSED. HIS PRESTIGE IN HOLLAND IS COMMITTED.
HIS ARGUMENTS AGAINST DELAY, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN PARAGRAPHS
4, 6 AND 7, ABOVE, SEEM CONVINCING TO ME. (SEE 77 CURACAO
A-43 AND A-44.)
PENBERTHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CURACA00448
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780267-0139
Format: TEL
From: CURACAO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780621/aaaaasjj.tel
Line Count: 154
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 75251782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CURACAO 442
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2214049
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PM ROZENDAL'S VISIT TO U.S.
TAGS: OVIP, NA, (ROZENDAL, SYLVIVUS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/75251782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014